JUN 18 1936

The JOURNAL of EDUCATION NEWS
Mid-month Edition

Vol. 119, No. 12 Boston, June 15, 1936 10 Cents

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Meet Chicago's New Superintendent

DR. WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, age forty-one, a native Chicagoan, and an assistant under the late Superintendent Bogan, was recently named Superintendent of Schools of the City of Chicago.

Dr. Johnson received his early education in the Chicago elementary and high schools. His A. B. and A. M. degrees were taken at Northwestern University, and while in the service of the Chicago schools he finished his work for a Doctor's degree in Education at the University of Chicago.

He entered the service of the Chicago schools as an assistant high school principal, where he took over the vocational guidance work. He also served outside of the city as the head of the chemistry department of Rockford College, and as dean of the Fort Scott, Kansas, Junior College.

Dr. Johnson was recognized educationally when he was appointed professor of education at the Chicago Normal School. At the same time he was made the managing editor of the Chicago Schools Journal, in which position he did a highly creditable piece of newspaper work. In recent years he has served as Assistant City Superintendent in charge of Chicago high schools.

Upon his appointment as Superintendent, Dr. Johnson had this to say about his new duties:—

"I believe education should be for the masses. It is the duty of our schools to equip the ninety per cent who do not go to college. However, in doing this I would not neglect the other ten per cent. I merely mean that we would give all students the type of education that would best fit them for life. Doing this will not upset the present school system, it will just broaden it to meet the demands of what is generally recognized as a good progressive school program."

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The News Digest
OF EDUCATION

Good Music
U. S. High School Bands Top World

CLEVELAND, O. — Professional band directors sounded a triumphant crescendo recently in salute to young America's crack high school bands gathered here. Three judges in the national band contest declared the top competing organizations are the best in the world and better than some professional bands. Edwin Franko Goldman, director of the Goldman Band, New York; Frank Simon, director of the Armco Band, Middletown, O., and Ernest Williams, director of the New York University Band, made the statements immediately after hearing the last of some sixty high school bands.

Decries Politics
Appointments on Merit Alone, Says Superintendent

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The public schools are not going to be turned over to the entanglements of politics and official influence if Dr. Henry J. Gerling, superintendent of instruction, has his way. And Dr. Gerling is either going to see that all appointments to teaching and clerical positions under his supervision are made on a basis of merit alone or he will resign as superintendent, he told an interviewer. Dr. Gerling has protested to the instruction committee of the Board of Education about the growing practice of attempted interference.

Hartwell Changes
Buffalo Superintendent to Head Normal School

BUFFALO, N. Y.—After eighteen years as superintendent of schools in Buffalo Dr. E. C. Hartwell is discontinuing his services this summer. He has accepted the principalship of the State Normal School at Brockport, New York.

Teacher Pensions
Adequate Retirement System Recommended

BOSTON.—Horace F. Turner, superintendent of Milton, Mass., public schools, pointed out in a recent address the advantages of an adequate retirement system for teachers. Superintendent Turner asserted that the question of old-age is an important problem for the school teacher. "More than one-third of all the employees in public service are engaged in the field of education," he declared. "That is more than 3 per cent of all the nation's employed. It is estimated that one in every three teachers is paid less than $700 a year." The lowest paid teachers are not covered by retirement provisions. Of the eleven states paying the lowest salaries to teachers, only one has a state-wide retirement act in operation.

Predicts School Up to Age of 22 As Device to Meet Job Scarcity

WASHINGTON. — Better opportunities for 137,000 young men and women graduating from college in June, 1936, were forecast by John W. Studebaker, United States Education Commissioner.

He reported that there was a "marked improvement in opportunities for college graduates over conditions three or four years ago," but at the same time he urged that a greater emphasis be placed on practical school training.

"One of the chief opportunities we have both to fit American youth for their future work and keep them off the labor market," Mr. Studebaker said, "is through junior colleges.

"There is just as much reason why school should train boys to be efficient plumbers or bricklayers as to offer them courses in medicine, law, or the other professions."

Referring to President Roosevelt's recent suggestion that children be kept in school until they are eighteen, Mr. Studebaker said that the 1,000,000 high school graduates this year were double the number completing their secondary education in 1924.

Census figures show that in 1930 more than 2,000,000 boys and girls under eighteen were working, and Mr. Studebaker predicted that eventually education of one kind or another would be provided up to the age of twenty-two.

Already, he said, youth's depression discouragement, which resulted in many failing to follow up skilled trades, has brought a shortage of skilled workmen, contrasting with the large unemployment rolls of unskilled labor.

Investigation
School Heads Take Up Red Teaching Charge

PHILADELPHIA. — Action by members of the Board of Education indicates that persons who have charged repeatedly that communism has invaded Philadelphia public schools finally will have their complaints investigated. Dr. Edwin C. Broome, superintendent of schools, had been unable to get very much excited about "general statements" as to the prevalence of Red teaching here. His usual procedure, when such statements were called to his attention, was to request specific proof. Within a period of two or three weeks, however, public assertions that teachers here were preaching communistic doctrines in their classrooms have won considerable attention. It now looks, it was reported, as if the school board is in the mood to have Dr. Broome investigate the situation with a view to determining whether there is any real basis for the charges.

Girls Carpenters
Hammer Wielding Taught At Iowa Teachers' College

CEDAR FALLS, Ia. — Iowa State Teachers College women students are taking a course in the elements of carpentry. Fundamentally, the course is intended to aid prospective teachers in instructing grade school children to use their hands. But the girls in the classes agree that the knowledge gained may have many useful applications. Men, they have pointed out, are frequently as helpless as the old-fashioned girl in such jobs as putting up shelves. H. G. Palmer, manual arts instructor, testifies that the girls are quick to learn the use of ordinary tools.

Pupils Plan and Build Observatory As Project at Greenwich, Conn.

GREENWICH, Conn.—Boys of the Edgewood School here recently completed a 2,000-pound copper-covered dome which was placed on an observatory which they also built. From the blasting of rock for the observatory foundation to the grinding of the mirror for the observatory, the whole project has been the work of students. With the exception of the window of the observatory and the gears used in the telescope's driving clock, all parts were made in the school shop.

Complicated problems were involved. The foundation is twelve-sided, with concrete walls a foot thick. The circular building is laid from concrete cinder blocks, pre-cast by the students with a curve figured in relation to the building's six-foot radius. The dome itself, which rotates on steel wheels set on a steel rail, is a twenty-four-sided "hemisphere" with a rib on each of the corners.

Mathematics classes have been enlivened for two years by the immediate necessity of making the accurate computations construction demanded. Many problems in physics were also encountered. The reflection and refraction of light, the distribution of weight, and the determination of stresses were studied in relation to the mounting of the telescope.

From the point of view of education, however, the school heads see results far beyond this obvious stimulation of particular studies. Several individuals, they say, found an outlet for highly specialized abilities which would have been quite unsatisfied within the limits of a formal curriculum. The project also supplied a plan whereby forty boys received the satisfaction of doing a real job, which involved the hardest kind of both mental and physical labor.

Employ One

Faculty Families Hit At Utah State College

LOGAN, Utah.—Utah State Agricultural College trustees decided recently that when a man and his wife both are on the faculty, the one most capable will be retained and the other dismissed.

Turner Elected

Heads New York Education Board

NEW YORK. — The Fusion forces assumed official control of the Board of Education recently with the election of Henry C. Turner and James Marshall, first and second appointees of Mayor La Guardia, as president and vice-president, respectively, and the seating of Mrs. Johanna M. Lindlof, fifth Fusion member in a body of seven. Mr. Turner was born March 13, 1882, in Brooklyn. He attended public schools here, Princeton University, and New York Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1905. He has a son and a daughter.

Women's Part

Educational Work Urged on Club Members

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Women's influence in education was one of the principal subjects of discussion at the forty-second annual convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. The keynote of the women's attitude was set by Mrs. H. B. Ritchie, president of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, who declared that education should be the main interest of club women "because the home has failed."

National Awards

Middlesex School Announces Eight Scholarship Winners

CONCORD, Mass. — Middlesex School announces the eight winners of the 1936 Prize Scholarship Competition. These Middlesex Prize Scholarships, which were inaugurated last year, are an innovation in secondary education in that they provide for the first time an opportunity for a boy of twelve to sixteen to obtain by his ability, similar benefits to those that the Rhodes Scholarships and the recently announced Harvard National Scholarships offer to a student of college age.

Seventy candidates, representing twenty-three states, took the Educational Records Bureau tests at thirty-nine widely scattered examination centres. Of the seventy contestants, approximately half proved themselves to be thoroughly deserving of an award from a scholastic point of view. From this group the eight ultimate winners were selected on the basis of character, personality, and capacity for leadership and in accordance with the announced regional distribution. The entire emphasis of the plan is based on the outstanding general ability of the Prize Scholar rather than on any pecuniary need, and the stipend varies according to the requirements of the winner's family. Specially gifted boys now have an opportunity to win an excellent boarding school education for as little as $400. a year. The eighteen Prize Scholars selected last year have made such worthwhile records in both scholastic and extra-curricular activities that the School has now definitely adopted the Regional Prize Scholarship plan as a permanent policy.

The
JOURNAL OF EDUCATION
Twice a Month (20 Numbers)
ANSON W. BELDING, Editor
Published by
NEW ENGLAND PUBLISHING CO.
Six Park Street, Boston, Mass.

Entered at Postoffice at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter. Issued the First and Third Mondays of each month, September to June inclusive.

Subscription price, $3.00 a Year.

Canadian postage 50 cents;
Foreign postage $1.00.

School Progress

To Be Discussed At Wellesley Institute

WELLESLEY, Mass. — "The Economic Issues Behind the Campaign Headlines" will be brought into the limelight by the sessions of the Summer Institute for Social Progress which will hold its fourth annual program July 4th-18th on the Wellesley College campus. Men and women from business, industry, civic organizations and the professions will gather in the informal campus atmosphere for two weeks of discussion of pressing economic problems alternated by recreation as afforded by tennis, golf, swimming, and boating. Dr. Colston E. Warne, head of the economics department of Amherst College, will lead the conference. He will be assisted by Max Lerner, formerly the Institute head, now editor of The Nation; Ordway Tead, lecturer at Columbia University; Dr. Clair Wilcox, head of the economics department of Swarthmore College and leader of the Swarthmore Business Men's Economics Discussion Group; Dr. Alfred D. Sheffield, professor of Group leadership, at Wellesley, and Mrs. Barbara Frances Wootton, of the University of London, England, the only woman member of the British delegation to the World Economic Conference. Morning lectures will be followed by round-table discussion of election issues—dramatizing the conflicts of opinion in a typical community to insure a realistic con-

sideration of the questions brought up—and evening forums will feature speakers from government, business, and labor groups. Teachers from Boston and nearby towns may attend as non-resident members.

Reservations may be made through G. L. Osgood, 14 West Elm Street, Wollaston, Massachusetts, or Miss Dorothy Hill, Green Hall, Wellesley College.

Student Spending

Girls More Extravagant Than Men

COLUMBUS, O.—As a spender of dad's money, a college girl outdoes a college boy, say students at Capital University here. A survey shows that it costs $695.43 to keep the average girl in school a year, whereas a man spends only $497.71 annually while acquiring an education. The girl students report they receive 85 per cent of what they spend from home and earn the rest. Men students say their parents pay 60 per cent of their bills.

"Real" Adult Program

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — A Federal Recreational and Educational Project has been initiated here. The State Board of Education in Hartford has permitted the outlining of a comprehensive course in arts and crafts, weaving by hand loom, needle work, carving in all its branches, dramatics, coaching of athletic sports and games, and other diversions, which would appeal to adults as a medium of relaxation after a day's work at the bench or office. The workers, before being assigned to the project, were subjected to an intensive course of training at New Haven and an efficient crew launched this branch of adult education. The project has been in existence for almost a year. The experiment has won its way into the confidence of the city, due to the addition of the usual programs of a community centre in some of the following activities: The winners of the basketball league were taken on a day's outing to West Point. All the expenses were defrayed by a small voluntary contribution taken in at dances, the music being furnished gratis by an orchestra which has been organized and trained by a community centre musical director. Moving pictures of travel films and other interesting subjects are also given without charge. The local school board and the superintendent of schools have assisted by their advice and kindly counsel. The result is the shaping of this project into an advance guard of real "honest-to-goodness" adult education.

High School Encourages Pupils To Give Views on Timely Topics

MILBURN, N. J.—For almost five years the principal of the Milburn High School, R. J. Bretnall, has encouraged pupils to express their opinions on anything from school politics to the nation's foreign policy.

Every morning newspapers are distributed in the classrooms and the pupils find them at their desks when they arrive. Although a period has been set aside for reading the papers and discussing the news of the day, many of the pupils come as early as 7 o'clock to follow up the trends in current events that have interested them.

The classroom discussion is guided by the instructor, but the initiative must be taken by the pupils. Those who wish to supplement the classroom work have formed an extracurricular club and continue the discussions under the supervision of a social studies teacher.

"We have been teaching them to read good newspapers and think out intelligently the problems they will have to meet when they leave school," Mr. Bretnall said. "In all the discussions we try to have the pupils keep to the subject in giving their side of the question and avoid opinion of personalities. We believe that by doing that they will be ready to act intelligently later on.

"All this work is part of our citizenship program and the school has never had a complaint from the community."

Spider Expert

Girl Student Has Large Collection

BERKELEY, Calif.—Barbara Catherine McIvor, girl student, is the spider specialist for the University of California. From a collection of 1,000 live spiders she is trying to develop a serum that will neutralize the lethal bite of the black widow spider.

Home Influences

Parent-Teacher Group Seeks Improvements

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Swinging back again directly toward the goal for which they set out just forty years ago, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers held its annual five-day convention here with "Relation of Home to Character Formation" as its theme. In the early days, according to Mrs. B. L. Langworthy, president, mothers thought something should be done to exchange ideas about the rearing of children. Later they found that since children spend so much of their time in school, perhaps something should be done about helping along that institution. Now the home is again emphasized, she said.

Most Students

Enrollment Hits Peak At California University

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Better financial conditions generally and more opportunities for part-time work have raised the enrollment figure at the University of California Campus here to an all-time high—7,253 students. The increase is reported by Registrar H. M. Showman, revealing a gain of 357 students over a year ago. The previous largest enrollment was 7,168 in 1932-33.

School Space

Million Additional Pupils Accommodated

WASHINGTON. — More than a million additional seats in elementary and high schools throughout the country have been provided as a result of PWA aid to the nation's public schools, at a cost to the Federal Government of $120 per student, Administrator Ickes reported. In two and a half years, Mr. Ickes said, PWA has added nearly 30,000 classrooms to the country's public school facilities and has made possible the construction of 4,115 new school buildings.

Quit Union

Teachers Surrender A. F. of L. Charter

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis teachers bowed to the city administration recently, dropping their union affiliation rather than lose their jobs. In a closed meeting the Memphis Teachers Association accepted the ultimatum of the City Administration and the School Board and surrendered the group's charter as an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor. The teachers' action cleared the city payrolls of union groups, banned by the administration several months ago. A possibility that the 500 members of the Teachers' Association might salvage their union standing lay in the recent filing of complaints against individual members of the School Board with the National Labor Relations Board.

Leaders Are Made

Iowa University Trains Timid Children

IOWA CITY, Ia. — University of Iowa child welfare research workers have advanced the claim that leaders of men are made—not born. Their premise was based on experiments with two and four-year-old children designed to "make the timid child bolder and the bold child more co-operative." Miss Marjorie Page, research worker, said fourteen shy children "who had a tendency to withdraw from the group" were trained in a recent experiment until they "stood up for their rights and made many more attempts at leadership." Through training other children, Miss Page reported, they "underwent a personality change from shyness to leadership."

"Deeply Concerned"

Bishop Finds Students Lacking in Bible Lore

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Bishop Edwin Mouzon, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, says he is "deeply concerned" over public ignorance of the Bible's contents. He said answers made by 18,434 Virginia high school students to a questionnaire showed that 16,000 of them could not name three prophets of the Old Testament. Twelve thousand could not name the four Gospels. Ten thousand could not name three of Christ's disciples. "If it is like this in Virginia, then it is likely to be worse almost anywhere in the country," the scholarly churchman, whose residence is at Charlotte, N. C., said.

Edit Daily

Rutgers Students Manage Local Paper

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J. — All three daily editions of The New Brunswick Daily Home News were recently put out by junior and senior students of the Rutgers University Department of Journalism, according to Professor Kenneth E. Olson, head of the department. Permission to take over for the day was granted by Elmer B. Boyd, owner and publisher of the paper.

Ambitious

M. D. Student at Paris Is Seventy-Five Years Old

PARIS.—Henry F. Cutler, of Mount Hermon, Mass., who entered his seventy-sixth year last month, is the oldest student at the University of Paris today. He already has D. C. L. (Syracuse), LL. D. (Wesleyan), and L. H. D. (Amherst) after his name, but is pursuing his medical course in Paris, where he is a regularly inscribed student at the Faculty of Medicine, receives no favors and follows the regular curriculum. He hopes to get his M. D. degree two years hence.

Communist Probe

School "Red" Inquiry Voted at Albany

ALBANY, N. Y.—Amid the tension and disorder which marked the end of the session, the Legislature voted a broad legislative inquiry into communism in the schools as practically its last act. The resolution was one of the broadest character, and in its "whereases" condemned sharply "communistic activities" in the schools and colleges and gave the inquiry committee wide powers to obtain evidence. The measure had been lying dormant for many weeks. The resolution carried an appropriation of $15,000 for a committee of three Senators and three Assemblymen.

Rate of Reading

Bulletin Sets Forth Results of Survey

WASHINGTON. — First-graders should be able to achieve ninety words a minute in reading. Sixth-graders should more than double this record, with a per-minute rate of more than 200 words. These are the norms set by a bulletin on reading instruction just issued by the National Education Association, based on a survey of 1,356 books and articles on the subject and the experience of 1,527 outstanding teachers of reading in all parts of the country. Books which most easily lure children into reading have bright-colored bindings, humorous pictures, large type and wide margins, with lines three to four inches long, the survey finds. Stories about children and animals are prime favorites, with prose generally preferred to poetry. New words, it is discovered, must be repeated thirty-five times as a rule before a child masters them.

Paternalism

Boston Mayor Looses Criticism

FITCHBURG, Mass.—Mayor Frederick W. Mansfield, of Boston, as speaker at the laying of the cornerstone of the new Fitchburg high school, criticized the growing paternalism of the schools and also their substitution of practical and commercial courses for the classical training of former years. "The community," he said, "is gradually being forced to assume the duties and responsibilities belonging to the parent. Thus, the taxpayers are being forced to pay the expenses of what used to be the private obligation of the family. In substituting the state for the parent, this seems to be an opening wedge for an ever-widening socialistic tendency." Observing that "we have not produced a literary genius or an outstanding man of letters for some time," Mayor Mansfield asked whether one reason for this might not be that the schools are directing their energies towards turning out thousands of "mediocre stenographers, typists, and artisans." Rapid growth of cities and towns in this country made it necessary to train youngsters to earn a livelihood, Mayor Mansfield said. But classics have been sacrificed to so great an extent that today, out of the 250,000 high school pupils in New York City, only 100 are taking Greek.

Brooklyn School Girls Register For Course in Personal Charm

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—The metamorphoses of gangling, ill-at-ease schoolgirls into self-possessed potential Garbos and Crawfords is a dream that is being realized in part at the Eastern District High School here. For the girls are taking a course in how to be charming.

Harriet S. Zucker, teacher of the class, writing of the work in High Points, high school magazine, wants it definitely to be understood that this is no mere boondoggling. She says that the course is an extra-curricular activity, open to upper-grade girls, and bears the imposing title of Personality Analysis and Fashion Studio.

Its aim is to make the average high school girl more conscious of the importance of being well-dressed, well-groomed, and well-mannered, the sum total of which is intended to result in a "charming and attractive personality."

The organization came into being as a result of an announcement in the school paper and a one-minute talk in assembly on "club speakers' day." The first meeting brought out 200 students.

Boys' Opinions

They Like Intelligence But Assail Girls' Hats

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Hamline University boys like girl students with intelligence, vitality, and a sense of humor, but not those hats. A poll of student sentiment brought that out and one of the male contributors volunteered: "As for those things they wear on their heads, a little less originality and more utility would not be out of the way." Girl students stated that they liked well-pressed, conservative clothes for their men friends. They rated intelligence and good disposition as necessary qualities in men rather than good looks.

Simpler Books

Librarians Propose Volumes for Aliens

RICHMOND, Va.—A proposal to have readable books in English edited in simple language for convenience of the foreign-born was laid before the American Library Association here by Edla M. Laurson, of the Detroit Public Library. To the library especially belongs the problem of wider book circulation among those most needing their information, Miss Laurson told the round table on work with the foreign-born. "It is a larger problem than was formerly realized," she said. "Recent surveys show how very limited is the reading knowledge of the average adult."

Teachers Are Employees of School Districts, Not of State

COLUMBIA, S. C.—School teachers are not state employees, but are employed by boards of trustees, and are, therefore, employees of such districts, a copy of an opinion given to State Superintendent James H. Hope by Attorney General John M. Daniel, sets forth.

The opinion says substantially:—

"The State pays to the county treasurer for delivery to teachers so employed, 'money with which to pay the salary fixed for these teachers for seven months. This does not change the status of the teachers as employees of the school district."

The text of the communication runs: "Replying to your letter . . . I advise that . . . South Carolina Workmen's Compensation Act places the duty on the State and its subdivision to accept the provisions of this act 'relative to payments and acceptance of compensation.' It also specifically says that the provisions as to exemption shall not apply to the State and its subdivisions, nor 'to any employe' of the same.

"Teachers are employed by the boards of trustees of the respective districts. They are, therefore, employees of said school districts. It would appear to be the duty of each district to look after providing insurance to take care of the compensation allowed under the act—if the finances of the district do not permit them to be their own insurers."

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Editorials

Betting Madness

HOW can young Americans be taught that their fortunes in life will be the results of their own honest efforts, when all around them they see evidences that men and women are capturing unearned prizes through gambling?

The problem is not easy of solution.

A partial answer is: Tell them the truth about gambling. Let them know the facts about the laws of chance and the application of those laws in the usual set-up of a horse race or any other betting proposition.

The newspapers do not disclose the whole truth about those affairs. They tell about the winnings. They are silent about the losings. How much goes out of a community into foreign sweepstakes, for example, in comparison with what comes back? How many hundred losers are there to every winner?

Even in pari mutuel betting, the twelve or fifteen per cent. retained by operators and the State on every race, mounts up in any afternoon according to the number of races, until, before the day is over, nearly half the money that the spectators have brought with them may have passed into other hands.

On the moral side, there is much to be said against getting something for nothing. If such argument falls on deaf ears—owing to lack of skill in presentation, possibly—the appeal to common sense may work better.

When all is said, however, the power of example is tremendous. And large numbers of the public have gone betting mad.

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Personality and the College

COLLEGE administrators who are in touch with the demands of employers—happily a growing demand right now—for their graduates, would probably confirm the statement of President Compton, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in a recent issue of "Letters," to the effect that high scholarship alone is much less wanted than formerly, and that the thing that counts most in winning a job is personality, cooperation, and adaptability.

Yet the emphasis in most colleges and universities continues to be on scholarship, in so far as the emphasis is determined by the faculty. Whatever is done to develop personality or the quality of getting along successfully with other people, results from outside activities often frowned upon by the professors as interfering with study.

In some institutions which pride themselves upon their high standards for the student body, the undergraduate is allowed little time for anything but study. When the student isn't preparing for a recitation or a test, he is performing experiments in a laboratory or writing a lengthy report or theme. Faculty members rival one another in the amount of toil exacted. The young person of only average brains and quickness may frequently spend so much time under the midnight mazda that his health is undermined. Worry over an approaching ordeal or over a poor mark given in some test, may cause a degree of mental distress that leads to nervous breakdown or even suicide.

When are our higher institutions going to pay serious heed to those aspects of their responsibility which lie outside the realm of intellectual achievement and pertain to the rounding out of personality, the adjustment of students who are unhappy in their relationships with faculty or fellow students?

A number of such institutions have gone so far as to engage the services of a psychological expert to look after cases known to need attention. But the task is not one that can be performed by one specialist alone, where twenty to five hundred professors are either indifferent to personality problems or actually engaged in rendering these more difficult and serious.

• • •

Mushrooming

THE greatest population increase during the past five years in any State of the Union wasn't in a State at all, but in the District of Columbia. There the number of residents grew by 23 per cent.

This fact should be of particular interest to all of us, inasmuch as most of the people residing in the District of Columbia are getting their living from the government which we all support.

Figures quoted by the National Civil Service Reform League indicate that every tenth person gainfully employed in the United States is now on the payroll of the government—local, state, or national. One in ten!

From the same source we are informed that $4,000,000,000 of the people's money goes each year to the support of these 3,000,000 employees of the government.

Is it possible that we really need all this governing?

Or are we paying for a good deal of useless service and considerable inefficiency?

• • •

The next issue of The Journal of Education will appear in September. A pleasant summer to you all!

Book Reviews

Four Tongues and Peoples

IN FOREIGN LANDS. An Exploratory Language Course and Cultural Introduction to Rome, Italy, France, Spain, Germany. By Beth Hughson and Oda Gostick, Stanford Junior High School, Sacramento, California. Boston, New York, Chicago, London, Atlanta, San Francisco, Dallas: D. C. Heath and Company.

The foreign lands supplying the subject matter of this meaty little volume are Rome and Italy, France, Spain and Germany. The aim of the authors is to provide pupils of junior high school level with an exploratory and introductory text to four countries and their respective languages. In the case of Italy, the narrative deals with both ancient Rome and modern Italy; while the language study is Latin.

In each of the four parts into which the book naturally divides itself by national lines, there is an interesting account of the history, customs, art, literature and music, together with elementary lessons in the language of the people under consideration. It would indeed be a cultural gain if every American were to possess the knowledge offered in this text. International understanding would also be advanced through such familiarity with the four important nations represented.

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The Play's the Thing

MODERN THEATRE PRACTICE. By Hubert C. Heffner, Northwestern University; Samuel Selden, The University of North Carolina; Hunton D. Sellman, Iowa State University. New York: F. S. Crofts & Company.

For all who are concerned with play production in school or college, in amateur dramatic club of any sort, this volume is a find. It is written for non-professionals. Its authors hold high standards for the art of the little theatre. They compare the staging of a play to the assembling and conducting of a symphony orchestra, in which every instrument must harmonize with all the others and there is no such thing as important and unimportant.

"Modern Theatre Practice" is the joint work of three authors. While all collaborated in the preparation, each was mainly responsible for one of the three principal divisions of the volume. These are: Directing, Scenery, and Lighting.

The book may be used as a text for college classes in dramatic production, or as a convenient guide to persons engaged in putting on plays. Selecting a piece; picking the cast; costuming and rehearsing the players; designing and painting the flat; arranging the stage; shifting the scenery; planning and executing the illumination and special lighting effects; even the sources of supply for all sorts of merchandise and mechanisms required in rounding out the performance to a satisfying result—all are included within the covers of this helpful treatise—a kind of Bible of amateur dramatics—called by the authors the true "national theatre" of America. For in that spontaneous movement, the active participation of tens of thousands of voluntary players, rather than in the canned drama of the cinema, dwells the spirit of dramatic art. And from this popular answering of an inner creative urge have come many of the best playwrights, producers, directors, and actors of the professional and commercial theatre.

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Those Trade Barriers

AMERICA MUST ACT. By Francis B. Sayre, Assistant Secretary of State. Boston: World Peace Foundation.

Only since the visit to Washington of the Canadian Prime Minister in November and the announcement of a new trade agreement with our northern neighbor has it begun to dawn upon the American public that the United States is at work upon an altered system of tariff adjustments. What that system is and why it has been adopted, is explained with remarkable clarity in "America Must Act," by Francis B. Sayre.

There is almost universal ignorance or misinformation among the citizens, not only of this but of almost all other countries, about international trade and the necessity for it.

How many Americans, for example, can give a sane answer to the cry of "Buy American"? The answer should of course be that we must have exports and in order to have them we must also have imports. While it is true that exports are only a tenth of our national production, there are various important industries—from the manufacture of office appliances to cotton growing—in which from 25 to 60 per cent of the output is dependent upon foreign purchasers. And, in the long run, imports have to balance exports.

Mr. Sayre makes all this sufficiently plain. He also points to the futility of those bilateral tariff dickers which attempt to match imports with exports as between two given nations when, in fact, the evening up has to be done among three or more countries.

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Shopping for a Vocabulary

THE GROCERY MAN. By Janet Wolfe, Primary Teacher, and Margaret Cook Holmes, Director, New York City Public Schools. New York: Noble and Noble, Inc.

This Supplementary Reader for the First Grade is the outgrowth of a reading experiment to teach children a basic vocabulary in a simple, interesting way, by means of an Activity Program. The authors have been extremely careful in their choice of vocabulary. A scientifically selected list of 200 words was used as a basis, using, for the most part, words found in most modern pre-primers and primers used in the schools today. This book, therefore, will correlate with other reading systems or may be used independently. Of the 200 words used, 153 are to be found among the first 500 selected by Professor Arthur I. Gates in his "Reading Vocabulary for the Primary Grades."

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Fit and Misfit

PERSONALITY MALADJUSTMENTS AND MENTAL HYGIENE. By J. E. Wallace Wallin, Director of Special Education and Mental Hygiene for Delaware State Department of Education and the Wilmington Public Schools. New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

Study of the maladjusted child, lest he become a maladjusted adult, is so new a project that the conclusions reached thus far cannot be regarded as final. The author of this volume certainly does not offer his opinions as the last word, even though they have resulted from thoughtful consideration of facts gathered during many years of opportunity to know individual cases and to read the literature of this new science of mental hygiene.

The value of this book lies in its grouping of cases which have points in common; cases whose incidence is sufficiently frequent to suggest general principles and modes of treatment. A great advance has been made in the mere directing of attention to the importance of a proper adjustment of the individual to life, and in making parents and educators aware of the seriousness of maladjustment and the frequent possibility of its cure by the simple giving of thoughtful attention to the problem.

This volume contains a mine of information which can assist the layman as well as the specialist in this type of social service.

Reader Viewpoints

CHEATING IS CHEATING

I cannot refrain from writing to compliment you upon your common sense and courage in writing the editorial on "Plagiarism" in the May 4 issue. Yours is the only comment I have seen that has handled the matter in what seems to me to be an honest way. All the published comment to the effect that the winner was such a fine, honest young man who simply "misunderstood" seems to me most unfortunate as an example to other young people. If a grown man of eighteen years could not understand that it is dishonest to copy another person's work and send it in over his own signature, he must certainly be a very dull individual, and this boy was pictured as exceptionally bright. If he honestly thought the contest called for only selecting the best possible article on Peace, and sending it in, would he not naturally have given the source of his selection with its author's name? To gloss this over in the eyes of other young people, and to hold, in spite of it all, that he was a "fine young man" and to compare him to Will Rogers *after* all this has happened, is to put a premium on shady dealing in the eyes of other young people —especially the other contestants in that contest. The prize was eventually awarded to the second on the list, but I have not seen any account of any honors going to him, such as were so elaborately given to the other boy. It is this excusing and glossing over of dishonesty that is helping to break down ideas of the value of honesty in our young people. I would not have been too drastic in the punishment of the young man, but I certainly think that to go to such lengths in excusing and praising him was as unfortunate in the other direction. The papers stated that he was not at all abashed—which seems to indicate that he felt he had not come out so poorly in the adventure. I am glad you had the courage to state the situation as it is.

FLORENCE HALE
New York City

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THE NEW EDUCATION

It seems to me that the author of the article on page 257 of the Journal for May 4, which is entitled *Is This the New Education,* was unfortunate in her experience with the "New Education," so-called. I am not an ultra-progressive in education, neither am I so conservative as not to be able to see genuine values in the use of projects and creative activities, for example, through which children learn, grow and develop, secure enlargement of personality, in short.

The fifth grade teacher with her master's degree was not using ordinary good sense, apparently. No doubt there are others of similar type who are inflicting themselves upon the more or less helpless and defenceless youngsters. I believe that they are in a relatively small minority, however. It would seem from Miss Naylor's report that this particular teacher had never learned the simplest elements of school management. If she had ever made use of traditional procedures no doubt she had then also been a weak manager. A teacher of good, controlling personality, by the use of her common sense, combined with a purpose and a plan, could easily have made the exercise on the newspaper a most valuable one for the class, or "group," just as you choose. There might easily have been both pupil freedom and teacher control. The two are not incompatible.

We school people are so apt to go off on tangents and to become the victims of the latest fad in school procedures. Undoubtedly the basic principles of the progressive school are sound and correct. At least, I believe that they are. It is an entirely different matter, however, to use suitable procedures by which the principles can be realized and worked out in practice. There is a deadly formalism of the old recitation procedure which is very clearly not educational; on the other hand, the extreme form of progressiveism, by which the children are unwisely permitted to choose, to try to determine matters which are clearly beyond their powers, is, on the face of it, utter foolishness. An enormous amount of time is wasted in both the old and the new school because the teacher does not have a definite plan and program or the personal ability and power to guide and direct the activities of her children.

As I read between the lines of Miss Naylor's article I get the impression that she is unconsciously prejudiced. I wish that she might visit some classes where real teachers are able to secure much pupil freedom and initiative, and at the same time always maintain complete control of the situation. There are plenty of such teachers.

There is a happy medium between the deadly formalism of the traditional school and that false freedom which shows itself mainly in disorder and waste of time and energy. There is always a place for the teacher with a firm grip who guides the activities and the self-expression of boys and girls into wholesome channels.

Such a teacher has true educational objectives and knows how to realize these objectives through rational procedures.

Miss Naylor is unconsciously exaggerating because of her unhappy experiences, or so it seems. It is certainly unfortunate that the moulders of progressive thought in education have so many disciples who bring discredit upon the whole movement by their extreme, unwise, and unbalanced antics in the schoolroom. It is one thing to tell teachers what to do, but it is an entirely different matter to show them exactly how to do it by going through the processes with flesh-and-blood children. The big business of learning demands the utmost of preparation, careful planning, guidance, and direction. Nevertheless, true learning comes only by individual experience, actual living, and there is where the traditional school has lamentably fallen down on the great job of education. It has been and is static instead of dynamic, at least very greatly so.

When can we teachers get a little sense and actually *use* good ideas wherever we can find them? The fact of the matter is that larger teacher personalities are greatly needed in the field of teaching. We need men and women who can see *both* the trees and the woods, who can discover the reasons for what they are trying to do, and who, above all things, know how to handle human nature and how to develop human personality, which is, by all odds, their greatest task.

FRANK J. LOWTH
Janesville, Wisconsin

ESSENTIALS OF A TEACHER

The first essential for a teacher is personality—a personality which wins friends and which expresses the strong character of one who speaks as "having authority." The teacher should have large human sympathy and an "understanding heart." She should have complete mastery of the subjects she is to teach and a knowledge of the best teaching procedures. She should maintain and follow the high ideals of her profession in the classroom and in the community, "and gladly teach."

LUCY WHEELOCK
Wheelock School
Boston

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PREFERS VIEWS TO NEWS

I cannot say I like the change of the Journal of Education devoted so much to the news.

Personally, I would like to see you editorialize on the news instead of giving us the stereotyped news forms about this or that.

I know the Journal of Education should teach us how to think and not what to think, but I have heard that so many times I am beginning to think it is wrong or I wouldn't hear it so much.

It might be refreshing for a change to know what to think. Your editorial page is splendid.

RUFUS B. ALLEN
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

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TO IMPROVE STUDY

May we suggest the following items which we feel may help the school to develop in pupils a better technique of study?

1. A more perfect homogeneity in grouping, emphasizing specific attention to the genius as well as to the subnormal individual. Too often we have "blasted the career of the genius to bring the subnormal pupil up to standard."
2. Allowing pupils, under supervision, to draw up agenda for courses. Our belief is that under these conditions the pupils will pursue the work with greater zeal and happiness. Studies would be more interesting—hence more easily motivated—and the boredom which accompanies subjects which individuals are incapable of studying intelligently would be eliminated. For example, if a student is of a mechanical turn of mind, he should not be obliged to struggle through a series of subjects in which there can be for him no immediate or future advantage. Moreover, if learnings could be associated with practical experiences, the derived benefits would be enhanced.
3. Teaching pupils *how* to think rather than *what* to think. This will eliminate indoctrination and will help to develop a scientific attitude.
4. More practical and less theoretical training in meeting problems of our present day world. There should be a tie-up between what is learned in class and what is met in the world.

LOUISE VOLZ
JOHN BROWN
Students
George Williams College
Chicago

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Wilson-Way School Photography, Cambridge, Mass.

Among the Schools

Animals in Class

Cleveland Pupils Use Live Specimens

CHICAGO. — Miss Mary Melrose, elementary science supervisor of the Cleveland public schools, in Chicago for the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, declared that "one of the very newest methods of teaching science to elementary children as applied in the Cleveland schools is to encourage them to bring animals to school at stated periods for study of animal life. The science rooms are equipped with fishbowls, bird cages, and a pen in which is kept the animal under discussion — and the parade is likely to include squirrels, rabbits, snakes, dogs, cats. It once included a skunk. The latter was expelled for misbehaving," she said. Miss Melrose has under her supervision 150 elementary schools in which 75,000 first to sixth graders are being introduced to botany, chemistry, biology, and physics.

Continue Reports

Detroit Marking System Declared Successful

DETROIT, Mich.—The new system of marking report cards in the Detroit elementary schools, instituted this year, will be continued next year and a modification of the elementary system may be introduced into the high schools. Herman J. Browe, supervising director of elementary schools, disclosed the success of the new marking system. This system substitutes "S" and "U"—satisfactory and unsatisfactory—for the old method of five-point marking to show the academic progress of pupils. In cases where children are doing extraordinary work the marking "E", for excellent, is used. "We find the parents, teachers, and pupils like the new method," Browe said. "In the whole year only two complaints have reached me. Doubtless there were more than that in the individual schools, but none, apparently, was sufficiently strong to merit its being taken up with my office."

Public School Code

School Committee States Theory and Practice

CONCORD, Mass.—Duties and responsibilities of all school officers from School Committee to caretakers of buildings have been clearly defined in printed Rules and Regulations adopted by the Concord School Committee. Starting with a statement that the duties of the School Committee are legislative and judicial rather than executive," the code expresses a philosophy of education and lists the main procedures by which it shall be carried into effect. Power of appointing all employees is vested in the Superintendent, subject to approval by the Committee. Functions of principals and teachers are set forth in a manner to insure clear-cut administration without overlapping. Ample provision is made for absences due to illness. There is a $50 allowance for each teacher attending a summer school with the Superintendent's approval. The code was drawn up by Superintendent Welles A. Hall and a committee of principals, and is believed to strike a new note in public school management for professional effectiveness.

Salary Cuts

Falmouth Reduces School Heads' Pay

FALMOUTH, Mass. — Salaries of the school superintendent, the High School principal, and music supervisor were cut at the annual meeting of the school committee. All teachers' salaries remained the same and all were re-elected, with the exception of seven whose pay was increased at the annual town meeting. Superintendent Paul Dillingham, whose original salary of $5,000 was reduced to $3,750 two years ago, was given another cut to $3,500. Principal Blynn E. Davis, of the High School, whose salary was also reduced two years ago, took another cut, this time from $3,000 to $2,750.

Requirements Eased

More Will Graduate From St. Louis Schools

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Modification of some of the more rigid requirements of the St. Louis public high schools will enable 327 students to be graduated at the June commencement exercises instead of returning for further study until the January commencement, it was learned with the announcement that 2,387 students, the largest class in the city's history, are candidates for graduation. The new regulations which have been adopted by the Board of Education revise the methods of crediting students so some may comply with less stringent requirements. Those adopting the easier credits will receive certificates of graduation instead of diplomas but there will be no distinctions made between the groups in the graduation exercises.

Rhythmic Pageant

Symphonic Folk Drama Given in Free Verse

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—It is not often that a new dramatic form is introduced into America by a high school boy or via school graduation exercises. But a symphonic folk drama in free verse, presented at class day of Ottawa Hills High School here is believed to be the first offering by an American author to make use of choric speech. Written in a lumber and furniture-making centre, the play deal

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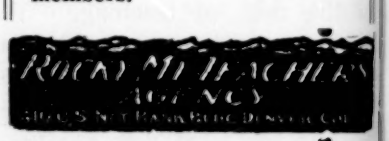

WM. RUFFER, Ph. D., Manager

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with the pioneers of the logging industry. Chanting loggers carried on the narrative and comment on the action, after the fashion of the Greek chorus. To the accompaniment of the loggers' chant in onomatopoetic verse and with a background of Stravinsky music, a series of dances created by two high school girls showed the mechanizing of the industry in the changing rhythms of steam engines and saw mills. Another sequence showed city folk—salesmen, camp inspectors, reporters — moving and speaking in mechanized patterns in contrast to the loggers. Lumberjack ballads were sung to the accompaniment of fiddles and mouth organs.

Pupils Vote

Morrow School Seniors Back Roosevelt, 82 to 62

ENGLEWOOD, N. J.—The sons and daughters of the stanch Republicans of Englewood, Ridgefield, and Edgewater favor the re-election of President Roosevelt, a poll of the senior class of the Dwight W. Morrow High School here revealed. The poll was taken by "Engle-log," student yearbook. The seniors were asked: "If you were of age, would you vote for Roosevelt next Fall?" Replying, eighty-two voted yes, sixty-two no, and one "under certain conditions." The three towns from which the students come always go Republican in local, state, and national elections. A majority of the students voted against this country entering the League of Nations, affirmed they would fight against an invader, and said they disliked smoking by girls.

Change Program

High School Drops Graduation Essays

MARLBORO, Mass. — The three highest ranking pupils of the Marlboro High School, through their parents, told the school committee that they didn't want to read essays—immemorial custom—at the graduation in June. The students, Kenneth Tebo, George Moore, and Parmina Padula, ordinarily would write and read the salutatory, the valedictory, and the history, as they have been read for fifty years. But, a letter from the parents said they would be "too busy" preparing for college entrance exams. The board capitulated. It barred any speakers from outside, but said any sort of graduation program could be arranged which suited the students and the teachers.

Urges Self-Reliance

Schools Seen Destroying Confidence of Children

NEW YORK. — Miss Elizabeth A. Irwin, principal of the Little Red School House, 196 Bleecker street, speaking at the third of the Public Education Association conferences recently, said that the problem of modern education was to condition children mentally and physically to become receptive to what the school had to offer. Schools were full of threats to a child's confidence, Miss Irwin said, suggesting that the children be made self-reliant at an earlier age.

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Grins Between Grinds

Bill's Last Stand

William—"I shall have to give up smoking. The doctor says that one lung is nearly gone."

Wife—"Oh, Bill! Couldn't you hold out a little longer until we get enough coupons for the new rug?"

• •

This Should Hold Them

A small boy leading a donkey passed by an army camp. A couple of soldiers wanted to have some fun with the lad.

"What are you holding on to your brother so tight for, sonny?" said one of them.

"So he won't join the army," the youngster replied without blinking an eye.

Mule Record

Campers beside a little lake in Northern Maine met a farmer when they went up to his farm to purchase milk. He was hungry for someone to talk to, and the campers were forced to sit down and listen.

"Now take my neighbor, for instance," he declared. "Ain't a finer man ever breathed. But when it comes t' politics he's as stubborn as a jackass. I declare he's th' stubbornest man in Androscoggin County. In fact, he's so stubborn, I make it a point never to give in to him."

• •

Rigid

"Willie," said the teacher, "how much is nine and six?"

"Thirteen," said Willie.

"No. Try again."

"Sixteen."

"No."

"Seventeen."

"Willie, Willie," said the teacher, "why couldn't you guess a smaller number—fifteen say?"

"Oh, no," said Willie, "it couldn't be fifteen."

"Why couldn't it?" asked the teacher.

"Because," said Willie, "ten and five make fifteen."

• •

Safety Plus

Professor—"This examination will be conducted on the honor system. Please take seats three apart and in alternate rows."

• •

Bait

"Say, Jim," said the friend of a taxicab driver, standing in front of the vehicle, "there is a purse lying on the floor of your car."

The driver looked carefully around and then whispered: "Sometimes when business is bad I put it there and leave the door open. It's empty, but you've no idea how many people jump in for a short drive when they see it."

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